



## City of Gaithersburg Press Release

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### For Immediate Release

## Explore the Universe with Skywatching Programs at Observatory Park

**Gaithersburg, MD (April 27, 2022)** The City of Gaithersburg invites you to turn your eyes skyward during a series of [Skywatching](#) programs at Observatory Park, 100 DeSillum Avenue. Admission for all programs is free and they are suitable for all ages. Registration is required and will be available [here](#).

### Let's Explore Space

Saturday, April 30, 7 - 9:30 p.m.

[Register here](#).

Join us for the first Skywatching program of 2022. There will be hands-on activities and telescope viewing. Mercury will be in our sights. We are making a unique playlist for our trip to space. E-mail [museum@gaithersburgmd.gov](mailto:museum@gaithersburgmd.gov) or comment on [Facebook](#) what song you would like to hear.

### Telescope Fun

Saturday, June 25, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

This program is all about telescopes. Learn how to use the Museum's dobsonian telescope or bring your own for telescope help. Members of the AAS Committee for Sexual-Orientation and Gender Minorities in Astronomy will join us to highlight contributions LGBTQIA+ scientists have made to STEM fields. This program is a part of the City's Pride Month celebration.

### Movie (*Apollo 13*) and Meteors (Delta Aquariids)

Saturday, July 30, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Join us for a showing of *Apollo 13* and then lie under the stars and watch for meteors.

### Space Telescopes, Galaxies, and Nebula

Saturday, August 27, 7 - 9:30 p.m.

Explore the first images from the James Webb Space Telescope. NASA Solar System Ambassador and astronomer, Dr. Caitlin Ahrens, will discuss the cosmic structures space telescopes have revealed to us. We'll have hands-on activities and telescope viewing. We are partnering with the Rockville Science Center for a full evening of astronomy fun. This is a NASA Webb First Look Community Event.

Observatory Park will be dark, but please do not bring a bright flashlight; use a red light as it is less intrusive to others and adjust the brightness of electronic devices.

Limited parking for those with accessibility tags is available onsite, with general parking in the field at the corner of DeSillum and Rt. 355, two blocks from the park. Portable bathrooms will be available. Note that there is no running water, and alcohol is prohibited.

Events at Observatory Park might be cancelled or modified at the last moment if conditions, including inclement weather or COVID-19 restrictions, limit the event. Please check the [Community Museum Facebook Page](#) for last minute announcements. Those who pre-register will receive an e-mail with any updates.

[Observatory Park](#) is home to the [Gaithersburg International Latitude Observatory](#). Operating from 1899 to 1982, the Observatory was one of six worldwide that measured the wobble of the earth on its polar axis leading to improved navigation and scientific discovery. This outdoor interpretive space highlights the importance of the scientific work conducted here for nearly a century. For more information, visit [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov) or call 301-258-6160.

The Gaithersburg Community Museum's programs are funded in part by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC). To discover more about MSAC grants and how they impact Maryland's arts sector, visit [www.msac.org](http://www.msac.org).

Follow on Facebook [@GaithersburgCommunityMuseum](#) and on Instagram at [@GburgCommunityMuseum](#). For more information, visit [gaithersburgmd.gov](http://gaithersburgmd.gov), call 301-258-6160, or e-mail [museum@gaithersburgmd.gov](mailto:museum@gaithersburgmd.gov).

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